



## English Learner (EL) Students Who Are Black

This fact sheet uses data and terminology from the 2013 American Community Survey (ACS). For the purposes of this fact sheet, the following definitions apply:

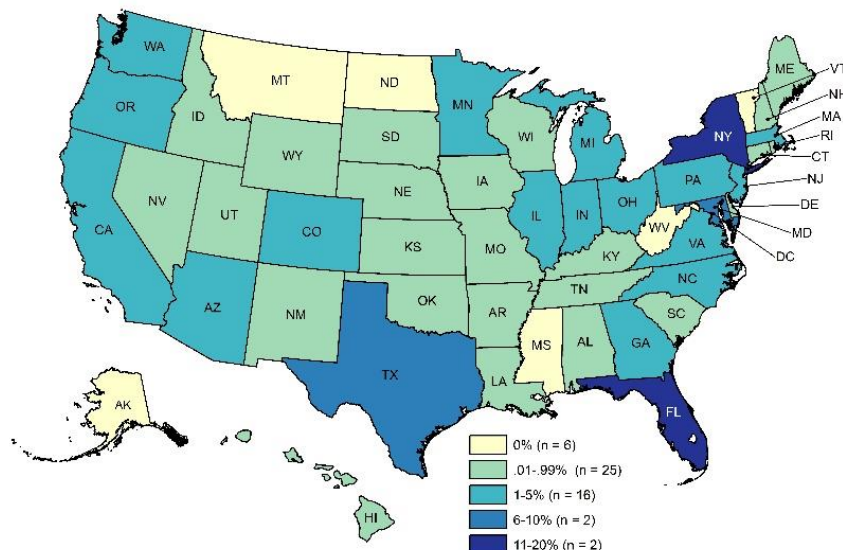
- An “English learner” student:
  - is ages 5 to 18,
  - attends school,
  - lives in a home where English is not the primary language spoken, and
  - reports speaking English “well,” “not very well,” or “not at all.”
- The 2013 ACS defines individuals who are Black as those whose racial self-identification included “black, African-American, negro, or mulatto, regardless of what additional race(s) the person reported, if any.” These individuals can be “Black alone or in combination” with other races, regardless of Hispanic origin.
- An “English proficient” student:
  - is ages 5 to 18,
  - attends school,
  - lives in a home where English is spoken, or
  - reports speaking English “very well.”

These definitions represent the respondent’s perceptions of his or her own English-speaking ability (Gambino, et al., 2014). The definitions may not correspond with those used by State Education Agencies and Local Education Agencies for reporting purposes.

### Percentage of EL Students Who Are Black, by State, Including DC: 2013

#### Fact

According to ACS 2013, 5.6 percent of EL students are Black (2.1% are foreign-born and 3.5% are US-born).

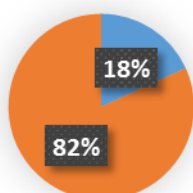


Note: Data are for both ELs born in the US and born in another country.

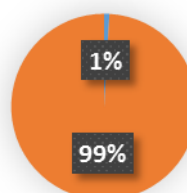
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013. Estimates generated by NCELA using Census DataFerrett.

### Percentage of EL Students Who Are Black, by Birthplace: 2013

Percentage of Foreign-Born Black Students Who Are EL



Percentage of US-Born Black Students Who Are EL



#### Fact

Eighteen percent of foreign-born Black students are ELs, compared with nearly one percent of US-born Black students.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013. Estimates generated by NCELA using Census DataFerrett.

**Top 15 Languages Spoken At Home by ELs Who Are Black: 2013**

Language	Number of Speakers	Percentage
Spanish	53,924	40.0%
French Creole	24,445	18.1%
French	10,175	7.5%
Cushite	9,591	7.1%
Kru, Ibo, Yoruba	8,332	6.2%
Bantu	3,995	3.0%
Amharic	3,756	2.8%
Swahili	3,221	2.4%
German	2,990	2.2%
Portuguese	2,087	1.5%
Fulani	2,070	1.5%
Vietnamese	1,860	1.4%
Arabic	1,467	1.1%
Other specified African languages	1,180	0.9%
Japanese	931	0.7%

**Fact**

**Forty percent of ELs who are Black speak Spanish at home. Approximately 18 percent of ELs who are Black speak French Creole at home.**

Note: Data are for both ELs born in the US and born in another country.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013. Estimates generated by NCELA using Census DataFerrett.

**Top 15 Birthplaces of Foreign-Born ELs Who Are Black: 2013**

Country	Number of ELs	Percentage
Haiti	13,241	26.0%
Dominican Republic	4,815	9.5%
Kenya	3,489	6.9%
Ethiopia	2,671	5.3%
Africa, not specified	2,459	4.8%
Somalia	2,074	4.1%
Mexico	2,032	4.0%
Congo	1,712	3.4%
Tanzania	1,505	3.0%
Western Africa, not specified	1,312	2.6%
Togo	1,169	2.3%
Ghana	1,133	2.2%
El Salvador	1,057	2.1%
Nigeria	1,019	2.0%
Democratic Republic of Congo (Zaire)	973	1.9%

**Fact**

**Over a third of foreign-born ELs (35.5%) who are Black were born in Haiti and the Dominican Republic (26% and 9.5%, respectively).**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013. Estimates generated by NCELA using Census DataFerrett.

Reference Cited: Gambino, Christine P., Yesenia D. Acosta, and Elizabeth M. Grieco. English-Speaking Ability of the Foreign-Born Population in the United States: 2012. American Community Survey Reports, ACS-26. U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC. 2014.



**VISIT OUR WEBSITE!**

<http://ed.gov/oela>  
<http://ncela.ed.gov>



**LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!**

<https://www.facebook.com/ED.OELA>



**SIGN UP FOR NCELA'S NEXUS!**

<http://ncela.ed.gov/nexus/>

**LEADERSHIP**

**Libia Gil**

*Assistant Deputy Secretary and Director  
Office of English Language Acquisition*

**David J. Johns**

*Executive Director  
White House Initiative on Educational  
Excellence for African Americans*